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Notes on the Chironomidae of Kansas

Paper 12 of 1928 Meeting at Wichita

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At Manhattan in 1925, we read a paper on the specific differences in the egg masses of Chironomidae* and showed a number of photographed masses.

We have in mind the preparation of a key if this egg mass character proves to be valid. Last spring we had an experience which tested this validity for one species and it held true.

While visiting the State Fish Hatchery at Pratt, Kansas, with a class in vertebrate zoology, some of the class became interested in the "gnats" above a pool and called attention to them. These insects were chironomids and therefore we collected a few and brought them home. In looking over the catch that evening we felt reasonably sure that the chironomid was Chironomus cristatus but the species had no valid record for Kansas.

As there were three females in the lot, we put each into a clean test tube with about one cubic centimeter of water in the bottom. This was the system we had used in former experiments and knew that Ch. cristatus would lay an egg mass under such conditions. In the morning we were rewarded with three egg masses which were beyonnd a doubt the egg masses of the species. We reared the larvae and these fulfilled all the character requirements.

In order to further confirm the classification, we sent the females that had laid the egg masses and a male collected at the same time and place, to Dr. O. A. Johansen of Cornell University who classified them as Chironomus cristatus.

This observation shows (1) that the egg mass character is valid for Chironomous cristatus Fabricus, and (2) that the species is a member of the fauna of Kansas.

In publication Ann. Ent. Soc. Am.